

WELFARE TO WORK INFORMING NOTICE AND GAIN CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Effective, _____ the county is starting the Welfare to Work part of the new California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program. The new rules about participating in Welfare to Work activities apply to all CalWORKs recipients.

IF YOU HAVE A GAIN CONTRACT, THIS NOTICE CHANGES YOUR CONTRACT. Keep this notice with your copy of your GAIN contract.

WELFARE TO WORK ACTIVITIES AND HOURS OF PARTICIPATION

- Recipients of cash aid under the CalWORKs Program will be required to participate in Welfare to Work activities, unless you are exempt from participating. The county will tell you what your hours of participation will be. Welfare to Work activities include the following: unsubsidized work, subsidized work, work experience, community service, adult basic education, vocational training, and job search services. To find out about all of the activities available in your county, ask your worker.

IF YOU HAVE A GAIN CONTRACT, YOUR ACTIVITIES AND HOURS OF PARTICIPATION WILL STAY THE SAME UNTIL THE COUNTY ASKS YOU TO SIGN A WELFARE TO WORK PLAN. Most Welfare to Work plans will let you finish your GAIN activities, but you may be required to increase your hours or add new activities.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - If you are unable to get a job with enough hours after receiving cash aid for 18 or 24 months under CalWORKs, depending on when you began receiving aid, you will be required to participate in community service, in order to continue to get your cash aid.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION OF 19-YEAR OLD TEEN PARENTS IN THE CAL-LEARN PROGRAM

- If you turn 19 while you are in the Cal-Learn program and have not graduated from high school or it's equivalent, you may be eligible to continue participating in the program until you turn 20 years old.

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your welfare office: CalWORKs Implementation Guidelines, Sections: III, IV, VI, XI, XII; Welf. & Inst. Code 11320.1, 11320.3, 11322.8, 11325.2, 11327.4 11331.5

COMPLIANCE - If you do not meet Welfare to Work requirements, the county will send you a notice. You will have 20 calendar days after the date of the notice to do the following:

- meet with or call your Welfare to Work worker to give a good reason for not doing what you are required to do. If you have a good reason for not doing what the county requires, your Welfare to Work worker will try to help you so that you meet Welfare to Work requirements, or
- if the county decides that you do not have a good reason for not doing what Welfare to Work requires, you must agree to sign a compliance plan to do what you are required. If you meet the requirement(s) of the plan, no penalties will be applied to you.

SANCTIONS - If you are required to participate in Welfare to Work and you refuse or fail to comply with Welfare to Work requirements without a good reason, or do not sign and complete a compliance plan, your cash aid will be lowered. The rules about how long your cash aid will be lowered are the same as they were under the GAIN program.

If you are not required to participate in Welfare to Work, but you asked to participate (volunteer) and you refuse or fail to comply with Welfare to Work requirements without a good reason, or do not sign and complete a compliance plan, your cash aid will not be lowered, but you may not be allowed back in Welfare to Work for a period of time.

SEE THE BACK SIDE OF THIS PAGE FOR WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO PARTICIPATE AND A LIST OF THE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING.

WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO PARTICIPATE - You don't have to be in Welfare to Work activities if you are excused (exempt). If you are eligible for the Cal-Learn Program, or if you got a high school diploma or its equivalent while you were in the Cal-learn Program, some of these exemptions may not apply to you. For more information, contact your eligibility worker or Cal-learn case manager. You are exempt if you are:

- Under 16 years old.
- 16, 17, 18 years old and go to school (not college) full time unless you go to school as one of your Welfare to Work activities.
- The nonparent relative caretaker of a child who is a dependent or ward of the court, or a child at risk of being placed in foster care and the county decides that taking care of the child keeps you from working or participating in a Welfare to Work activity on a regular basis.
- Staying home to take care of someone in the household who can't take care of him/herself if that keeps you from working or participating in a Welfare to Work activity on a regular basis.
- A parent or caretaker relative of a child six months old or younger (or, depending on the county, for a child 12 weeks old or younger or for a child 12 months old or younger). Ask your worker how old your child has to be for you to be exempt. This exemption is available only once. BUT if you are a teen parent who is required to participate in the Cal-Learn Program, you must participate no matter how old your child is, unless you have another reason to be exempt.
- * Physically or mentally unable to work or participate in a Welfare to Work activity on a regular basis for at least 30 calendar days.
- 60 years old or older.
- Pregnant and a doctor states that you cannot work or participate in Welfare to Work activities.

GOOD REASONS FOR NOT PARTICIPATING - You may have a good reason for not doing what the county requires. Some of these reasons are related to you personally and some are related to the activity.

- **Reasons related to you:**

- You need child care for a child 10 years old or younger, transportation, or work or training related expenses to participate and it hasn't been provided.
- you are the victim of domestic violence and participating would be harmful to you or your family.

- **Reasons related to activity or job:**

- Discrimination because of age, sex, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, political affiliation, or marital status.
- Travel to work or training from your home is more than two hours round trip by car, bus, or other transportation, or more than two miles round trip if you have to walk because other transportation is not available. This limit does not include the time or mileage to take your family members to or from school or to or from other care providers. (If you do not take a job or participate in an assigned activity because of this reason, you will have to participate in community service.)
- The job requires more daily or weekly hours than is normal or customary.
- Conditions that violate health and safety standards or that could cause you serious injury or death.

For other good reasons for not participating to Welfare to Work activities, ask your worker.